

# *Louise Line*

***A periodic update from the front lines in Congress***

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[www.louise.house.gov](http://www.louise.house.gov)

## ***News in Congress***

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### **Making the Homeland Security Committee Permanent**

As the Ranking Democrat on the Select Committee on Homeland Security's Rules Subcommittee, Louise is leading the fight to make the committee permanent. When it was created, the temporary committee was charged with coming up with recommendations on how to best oversee national homeland security activities. On September 30, Louise stood with Committee Chairman Rep. Chris Cox to call for making it permanent – a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission and virtually every homeland security expert. Click [here](#) for Louise's press release.

### **Increasing Security at the Northern Border**

Louise has helped author a new bill, the Secure Borders Act (HR 5130), to improve security along our nation's borders. The legislation includes Louise's proposal to create a Northern Border Coordinator within the Department of Homeland Security. If enacted, it will also provide \$1 billion for border infrastructure improvements, like the expansion of Buffalo's Peace Bridge; double the number of Customs and Border Patrol agents, which could help secure places like the Port of Rochester; and enhance the NEXUS and FAST pre-enrollment programs. For more information, click [here](#).

### **Women's Soccer**

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, Louise has been a staunch defender of Title IX, the federal law that mandates gender equity in high school and college sports programs. She has also authored a [bill](#) that would help high school sports programs offer equal opportunities for boys and girls.

She recently attended the [U.S. Women's National Soccer Team game](#) in Rochester, where she presented Abby Wambach, a Rochester native, with a *Congressional Record* statement honoring her achievements. The following week, Louise's office hosted Abby's teammates [Julie Foudy and Brandi Chastain](#) on Capitol Hill for a special event in their honor, where they endorsed her bill.

## **Keeping Warm During the Cold New York Winter**

On Wednesday, the [Energy Information Administration](#) at the Department of Energy announced that skyrocketing oil costs mean that home heating bills could rise by as much as 28 percent this winter. In New York, thousands of families rely on the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help pay their skyrocketing energy bills. Louise recently sent a [letter](#) to the chair of the Appropriations Committee asking for an additional \$600 million for this vital program. Without additional federal funding, states' low-income heating assistance programs will run out of money will before the end of winter, and only 13 percent of more than 34 million applicants will receive government assistance.

## **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Every year, millions of people – both men and women – are abused by spouses or partners. This violence shatters families, communities and lives.

Louise is working in Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, and is also writing legislation to prevent sexual assault in the military.

Please visit the [Department of Health and Human Services](#) web site for information on how to end the violence.

## **Military Recruitment and Retention**

A recent report by the Defense Science Board found that current troop levels are not sufficient to meet the needs of our current and anticipated military operations. The National Guard also recently reported it has fallen short of its recruitment goals for the first time in 10 years.

Louise has joined her colleagues in requesting that the General Accounting Office (GAO), the independent investigative arm of Congress, conduct a comprehensive review of the recruitment and retention efforts of the U.S. Armed Forces. In their letter to GAO, the members stress their concern about stress factors that are hampering the military's recruiting ability, as well as its heavy reliance on reserve units. Click [here](#) for the text of the letter.

## **Breast Cancer Awareness**

October marks the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Breast Cancer Awareness Month. An estimated 40,000 American women will die from breast cancer in 2004. But with early detection and treatment, we can beat this disease. Louise encourages women in Western New York to make sure they are receiving regular mammograms. She

recently [visited](#) the Elizabeth Wended Breast Clinic in Rochester to help promote a program to offer free mammograms to low-income women. Visit the [Centers for Disease Control](#) web site for more information on how you can protect yourself and your loved ones.

### **Stay Updated at [www.louise.house.gov](http://www.louise.house.gov)**

Louise's [website](#) recently underwent major changes to ensure that those with low-speed Internet connection can easily access the site. The website is a one-stop shop for information on Louise's [activities](#) in Congress and in the district, community events in the [28<sup>th</sup> Congressional District](#), and includes special sections on [constituent services](#). You may also request Capitol and White House tours, purchases flags that have been flown over the Capitol, and watch Louise's recent [statements](#) on the House floor. Louise's website has been named one of the best Democratic sites by the House Administration Committee and is updated daily.

### **Out and About**

Louise has been out in the 28<sup>th</sup> district, meeting her constituents and talking about what she's working on. Recently, she:

- - Addressed delegates at the SEIU convention in Niagara Falls
- - Attended opening ceremonies at the Colonel Patrick O'Rourke Bridge in Rochester
- - Joined the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo at their Lion of Judah Luncheon
- - Spoke at the Niagara Falls Mutual Aid Association breakfast

### ***On the Record***

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[Rep. Slaughter Announces Over \\$5 Million In Lead Paint Grants For Buffalo & Rochester](#)

### ***The Final Word***

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*"We paid a big price for not stopping it because it established an atmosphere of lawlessness. We never had enough troops on the ground."*

- Former Iraq Administrator Paul Bremer, on the looting following the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

*"To my knowledge, I have not seen any strong, hard evidence that links the two."*

-Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on the relationship between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaida.

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